

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4369

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

S E C R E T LUXEMBOURG 0272

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO, SP, LU

SUBJ: SPAIN AND NATO

REF: STATE 91998

1. ON APRIL 23, DCM APPROACHED MFA SECRETARY-GENERAL PIERRE WURTH AND MFA DEPUTY POLITICAL DIRECTOR PAUL MERTZ (WHO HANDLES NATO AFFAIRS) TO CONVEY POINTS IN REFTEL. WURTH REPLIED THAT THE GOL WOULD, OF COURSE, GIVE SERIOUS CONSIDERATION TO USG VIEWS, ALTHOUGH HE ADMITTED THAT ANY MOVE TO ASSOCIATE SPAIN MORE CLOSELY WITH THE ATLANTIC POLITICAL AND MILITARY FRAMEWORK POSES SERIOUS PORBLEM FOR LUXEMBOURG. FIRST, THE SOCIALIST MEMBERS OF THE GOL COALITION WILL REACT VERY NEGATIVELY TO ANY SUCH MOVE. IN ADDITION, PRIME MINISTER THORN HAS MADE CLEAR TO SPANISH OFFICIALS THAT HE LOOKS FORWARD TO A FUTURE ASSOCIATION BETWEEN MADRID AND BOTH THE EC AND NATO, BUT ONLY AFTER SPAIN IS WELL ON THE WAY TO INTERNAL DEMOCRACY. WURTH SAID THAT HE NEVERTHELESS APPRECIATED OUR ARGUMENTS THAT A WESTERN BOYCOTT OF SPAIN COULD WELL FRUSTRATE THE DEMOCRATIC EVOLUTION WE ALL FAVOR, AS WELL AS JEOPARDIZE MAJOR WESTERN STRATEGIC INTERESTS IN

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THE NEAR FUTURE.

2. REGARDING THE FORM OF AN EVENTUAL ALLIANCE STATEMENT ACKNOWLEDGING SPAIN'S CONTRIBUTION TO WESTERN DEFENSE, WURTH OBSERVED THAT SUCH LANGUAGE WOULD BE MORE ACCEPTABLE "BURIED DEEP DOWN" IN THE NATO SUMMIT COMMUNIQUE, RATHER THAN IN A SEPARATE DOCUMENT. SUCH A REFERENCE SHOULD ALSO BE LIMITED TO THE STRATEGIC VALUE OF THE NATO/SPAIN RELATIONSHIP. WURTH ADDED THAT PRIME MINISTER THORN HAD VIEWED RECENT PRESS REPORTS OF A POSSIBLE VISIT BY PRESIDENT FORD TO MADRID WITH ALARM. SUCH A VISIT WOULD, IN THE MIND OF THE GOL, INDICATE US APPROVAL OF THE CURRENT SPANISH POLITICAL SYSTEM, AND RENDER THORN UNALTERABLY OPPOSED TO ANY US INITIATIVE WHATSOEVER DESIGNED TO INCREASE TIES BETWEEN SPAIN AND NATO. WURTH SAID THAT HE CONSIDERED THAT OUR INITIATIVE TO BE OF CONSIDERABLE IMPORTANCE, AND WOULD IMMEDIATELY BRIEF PRIME MINISTER THORN ON OUR DEMARCHE. HE WOULD ALSO INSTRUCT LUXEMBOURG'S PERMREP FISHBACH TO ATTEND ALL FUTURE MEETINGS ON THE SUBJECT IN NATO.

3. COMMENT: MADRID'S ENERGETIC OPPOSITION TO THORN'S CANDIDACY FOR THE UNGA PRESIDENCY WILL ALSO HAVE A NEGATIVE EFFECT ON THE GOL VIEW OF THE SPAIN/NATO QUESTION. IN CONSULTATIONS WITH THEIR BENELUX ALLIES, THE GOL WILL FURTHER BE INFLUENCED BY LIKELY DUTCH OPPOSITION TO OUR INITIATIVE. WE CAN PROBABLY ENLIST RELUCTANT GOL SUPPORT ON THIS ISSUE ONLY IF THORN IS CONVINCED THAT THE SPANISH WILL ACTUALLY RISK ALIENATING WESTERN EUROPEAN AND US OPINION BY INSISTING ON SOME DEGREE OF FORMALIZATION OF SPAIN/NATO TIES. THORN WOULD ALSO HAVE TO BE PERSUADED THAT THE SPANISH CONTRIBUTION TO THE WESTERN DEFENSE SYSTEM IS SO IMPORTANT THAT HE HAS A DUTY TO SUPPORT SOME SPAIN/NATO LINKS, DESPITE THE DOMESTIC POLITICAL RISK TO HIMSELF AND HIS VISCERAL ANTIPATHY FOR THE SPANISH REGIME.FARKAS

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